



## BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION

August 8, 2016

5:30 p.m. - Basement, Thorman Conference Room  
801 Texas Ave., City Bldg. 3, El Paso, Texas

### Minutes

#### Members Present: 4

District 3 – Deanna A. De La Cruz  
District 5 – Theresa Welch Fordham  
District 6 – Francoise A. Feliberti  
District 7 – Sylvia Carreon

#### Members Absent: 3

District 2 – Steve Lujan  
District 4 – Roy Gilyard  
District 8 – Ana Roush

#### City Staff Present

Tracy Novak, Director of Parks and Recreation  
Joel McKnight, Parks and Recreation Assistant Director  
Steve Lunsford, Land Management Superintendent  
Maggie Binkley, Administrative Assistant  
Elsa Ramirez, Senior Secretary

#### Vacancies: 2

Mayor – Vacant  
District 1 – Vacant

#### City Attorney - Legal

Juan Gonzalez, Assistant City Attorney

#### Public Present

Brent Pearson, Tree Arborist  
Eileen Karlsruher, President CSA Design Group  
John White, UTEP Chih. Desert Botanical Garden

Joann Burt, W. TX Urban Forestry Council  
Denise Rodriguez, EP County AgriLife

1. Agenda Item #1. Meeting Called to Order  
Theresa Welch Fordham, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.
2. Agenda Item #2. Approval of Minutes: July 11, 2016  
Motion by Sylvia Carreon to approve minutes as written, second by Deanna De La Cruz. Motion carried (unanimous).
3. Agenda Item #3. Call to the Public (for items not on the agenda)  
None
4. Agenda Item #4. Update and Discussion: Park Maintenance Activities – Steve Lunsford, Land Maintenance Superintendent  
Steve Lunsford, Land Maintenance Superintendent, reported on the following items:
  - Turf phase I seeding coming to an end, will reopen fields
  - Next phase begins in September

- Pico Norte – will open after Labor Day
- Madeline Park – added walking path trail (65% completed)

Discussion ensued on the Blackie Cheshier sod project, Pico Norte fields, and the Westside Sports Complex.

Tracy Novak, Director of Parks and Recreation, gave a brief summary of the Sue Young Grand opening of El Paso's first Spray Park.

5. Agenda Item #5. Subcommittees:

- a. Discussion and Action: Tree Subcommittee – Review list of Members and Schedule time for Meetings – Brent Pearson, City Tree Arborist

Bent Pearson, City Tree Arborist, requested that the new members introduce themselves to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, they are as follows:

Joann Gwinn Burt, West Texas Urban Forestry Council  
Eileen Karlsruher, President CSA Design Group and former Park Foundation President  
Denise Rodriguez, El Paso County Texas AgriLife Extension  
John White, UTEP Chihuahuan Desert Botanical Garden Curator

Motion by Theresa Fordam to have the first meeting at the Master Gardener Facility at 3105 Grant (Memorial Park), on August 22, 2016 at 4:00 p.m., seconded by Sylvia Carreon. After discussion it was unanimous for set time and date.

*Brent Pearson and new Tree Subcommittee members left at 5:48 p.m.*

6. Agenda Item #6. Discussion: Violation and Enforcement of Vehicles Parked on Grass – Joel McKnight, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director

Joel McKnight, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director, reviewed the Ordinance regarding the issue of vehicles parked on grass areas of parkland. Violators will receive a citation. Persons witnessing a violation should contact the Police Department.

*Elsa Ramirez, Senior Secretary, left at 5:55 p.m.*

Discussion followed on the problems of enforcing the ordinance and issuing citations. It was suggested a PSA (Public Service Announcement) could be an avenue to educate the public.

7. Agenda Item #7. Discussion and Action: All Abilities Playground, Texas Recreation and Park Society Grant – Joel McKnight, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director

Joel McKnight, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director, reported on the grant opportunities for All Abilities Playgrounds in El Paso. These playgrounds are designed to focus on ones abilities. Joel McKnight distributed artist renditions of each playground proposed.

Discussion was held on the different components of the playground designs.

Motion by Francoise Feliberti to support the Parks and Recreation Department's application for a grant for All Abilities Playground, second by Sylvia Carreon. Motion carried (unanimous).

8. Agenda Item #8. Discussion and Action: Northeast Regional Park Phase II, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Grant – Paula Powell, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director

In Paula Powell's absence, Tracy Novak Parks and Recreation Director reviewed the Northeast Regional Park Phase II of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Grant with the Board. Mr. Novak explained the different amenities; flat fields, soccer fields, a dog park and other park equipment.

Motion by Francoise Feliberti to forward a recommendation to City Council to allow Parks and Recreation to apply for this grant. Second by Sylvia Carreon. Motion carried (unanimous).

9. Agenda Item #9. Discussion: Wilderness Park Metal Shade Canopy – Joel McKnight, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director

Joel McKnight, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director, explained the location and amenities of the Wilderness Park located in Northeast El Paso where the shade canopy is proposed. An informative meeting will be conducted on Monday, August 22, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. at the Wilderness Park/Museum of Archaeology.

10. Subcommittee Assignments (as needed)  
None

11. Agenda Item #10. Reports on Recent Activity

- a. Recent City Council Agenda Items
- b. Upcoming Committee Meetings List
- c. Land Acquisition List
- d. Parks and Recreation Construction Projects List

Tracy Novak, Parks and Recreation Director, reviewed the Parks and Recreation Construction Project List with Board Members.

Theresa Fordham, Chair, advised the Board that further information on the above items can be located in their packets and on the City's website. Being no further discussion she moved on to the next agenda item.

12. Agenda Item #11. Discussion: Identify Items for Future Agendas

- FY2017 Budget
- Social Media – Tweets
- Botanical Gardens
- Award winning Park Designs

13. Adjournment – 6:53 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Maggie Binkley, Administrative Assistant